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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, January 30, 2008

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PRESS RELEASE

**Three to Serve Jail Time on Federal Charges
for Failure to Register Under Sex Offender Law**

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced that three defendants have been convicted and sentenced in the District of Delaware under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. The Adam Walsh Act requires convicted sex offenders to register in any state in which they live, work, or go to school, and to keep the registration current by notifying the state within three days of any changes of name, residence, employment, or student status. Violators of the registration requirement face up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

On June 5, 2007, the federal grand jury sitting in Wilmington returned indictments charging Wade Gray, age 25, William Hackett, age 46, and Clarence Lewis, age 28, with the knowing failure to register as a sex offender. Each pleaded guilty to the offense and each received substantial sentences under the new law.

William Hackett came to Delaware shortly after being convicted on May 4, 2007, of a sex offense in Maryland. Hackett failed to inform state authorities of his Delaware address. On December 7, 2007, Hackett was sentenced in federal district court to 37 months in prison.

Clarence Lewis had a 1996 New Jersey conviction for Aggravated Sexual Assault. He had previously registered as required in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but did not update his registration when he moved to Delaware in 2006. On January 16, 2008, Lewis was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison.

Wade Gray was arrested in Delaware on April 24, 2007, and was charged with a federal firearms violation. After his arrest, agents discovered Gray had a 2000 North Carolina conviction for Felony Solicitation, which makes Gray a sex offender under the Adam Walsh Act who was required to inform authorities of his Delaware address. Gray was charged with a violation of the Adam Walsh Act in addition to his firearms offense. Sentencing was held today on both charges, and Gray received 24 months in prison.

Connolly stated that sex offender registration laws are vital to ensuring the safety of Delaware's communities. "The Adam Walsh Act provides law enforcement with a powerful tool to prosecute convicted sex offenders who avoid their obligation to register with the state," said Connolly. "Whether their prior convictions are state or federal, from Delaware or elsewhere, under the Adam Walsh Act, sex offenders who live here and fail to register can, and will, be prosecuted and face significant jail time if convicted."

The U.S. Marshals Service was designated by the Adam Walsh Act to lead the national effort to track down and arrest unregistered sex offenders, and Connolly praised the efforts of the Delaware Marshals Service, along with its state and local law enforcement partners, in successfully prosecuting these cases.

U.S. Marshal David Thomas said, "this should serve notice to any sex offender who is not properly registered to conform with Federal and State laws or risk being arrested by U. S. Marshals, State and local police. Apprehending people who are in violation of the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act is a major priority for the United States Marshals Service."

For further information, please contact United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly.

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